

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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graffiti *n* [pl. of *graffito*] (1945): usu. unauthorized writing or drawing on a public surface
usage *Graffiti*, which also serves as the plural of *graffito*, is commonly used as a singular mass noun (*graffiti*... was depressing people who rode the subway — *New Yorker*). *Graffiti* comes in various styles — S. (established as the mass-noun use of *data*, use of *graffiti* as a singular noun is still quite rare and is not standard).

graft *vt* [grā-fē-tō, grā-, grā- *n* pl -ti] [It, incised inscription, fr. inscription or drawing made on some public surface (as a rock or wall); also: a message or slogan written as or as if as a graffito — *graffiti-tist* *n*]

graft *v* [grāf] *n* [ME *graffe*, *grafe*, fr. AF *greffe*, *grafe* *stylus*, graph, fr. ML *graphium*, fr. L *stylus*, fr. Gk *graphein*, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (14c) 1 a: a grafted plant b: SCION 1 c: the point of insertion of a scion upon a stock 2 a: the act of grafting b: something grafted; *specif*: living tissue used in grafting

graft *vi* (14c) 1 a: to cause (a scion) to unite with a stock; also: to unite (plants or scion and stock) to form a graft b: to propagate (a plant) by grafting 2 a: to join or unite as if by grafting b: to attach (a chemical unit) to a main molecular chain 3: to implant (living tissue) surgically ~ *vt* 1: to become grafted 2: to perform grafting — *graft-er* *n*

graft *n* [B dial. *graff*, vb., to work] (1853) chiefly Brit: WORK, LABOR

graft [origin unknown] *vi* (1859): to get (illicit gain) by graft ~ *vt*: to practice graft

graft *n* (1865): the acquisition of gain (as money) in dishonest or questionable ways; also: illegal or unfair gain

graft-age *n* [grāf-tij] *n* (ca. 1895): the principles and practice of grafting

graft-versus-host disease *n* (1965): a potentially fatal bodily condition that results when T cells from a tissue or organ transplant and esp. a bone marrow transplant react immunologically against the recipient's antigens attacking cells and tissues

graham cracker *n* [grām-krāk-er] *n* [Graham flour] (1882): a slightly sweet cracker made of whole wheat flour

graham flour *n* [Sylvester Graham †1851 Am. dietary reformer] (1834): whole wheat flour

grail *n* [ME *greal*, *grail*, fr. MF, bowl, fr. ML *gradalis*] 1 a: the cup or platter used according to medieval legend by Christ at the Last Supper and thereafter the object of knightly quests 2: the object of an extended or difficult quest

grain *n* [grān] *n* [ME, partly fr. AF *grain* cereal grain, fr. L *granum*; partly fr. AF *graine* seed, kermes, fr. L *grana*, pl. of *granum* — more at *CORN*] (14c) 1 a (1) obs: a single small hard seed (2) a: seed or fruit of a cereal grass b: CARYOPHYTE c: the seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grasses and in commercial and statutory usage other plants (as the soybean) d: plants producing grain 2 a (1) a small hard particle or crystal (2) any of the particles produced in a photographic material by its development; also: the size of such grains in the aggregate (3) an individual crystal in a metal b: a (truth) 3 a: kermes or a scarlet dye made from it b: cochineal or a brilliant scarlet dye made from it c: a fast dye d *archaic*: COLOR, TINT 4 a: a granulated surface or appearance b: the outer or hair-like of a skin or hide 5: a unit of weight based on the weight of a grain of wheat taken as an average of the weight of grains from the middle of the ear — see *WEIGHT* table 6 a: the stratification of the fibers or fibers (the ~ of a rock) c: a texture due to constituent particles or fibers 7: tactile quality 8 a: natural disposition: TEMPER (lying goes against my ~) b: a basic or characteristic quality c: a prevalent ideology or convention (teaching against the ~) — *grained* *v* [grānd]

grain *adj* [grān-lēss] *adj* 1: INORAIN 2: to form into grains: GRANULATE 3: to paint in imitation of the grain of wood or stone 4: to feed with grain ~ *vt*: to become granular: GRANULATE — *grain-er* *n*

grain alcohol *n* (1883): ETHANOL

grain elevator *n* (1852): a building for elevating, storing, discharging, and sometimes processing grain

grain of salt (1647): a skeptical attitude

grains of paradise (15c): the pungent seeds of a West African plant (*Amomum melegueta*) of the ginger family that are used as a spice

grain sorghum *n* (1920): any of several sorghums cultivated primarily for grain — compare *SORGO*

grainy *adj* [grā-nē] *adj* grain-like; -est (15c) 1: resembling or having some characteristic of grain: not smooth or fine 2: of a photograph appearing to be composed of grain-like particles — *graini-ness* *n*

gram *n* [grām] *n* [obs. Fg (now spelled *grao*), grain, fr. L *granum*] (1702) any of several leguminous plants (as a chickpea) grown esp. for their seed; also: their seeds

gram *n* [F *gramme*, fr. LL *gramma*, a small weight, fr. Gk *gramma*, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (1810) 1: a metric unit of mass equal to 1/1000 kilogram and nearly equal to the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at 4°C under the acceleration of gravity 2: the weight of a gram [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1934): GRANDMOTHER

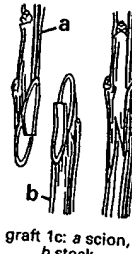
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graft 1c: a scion, b stock

gram-i-ci-din *n* [grā-mō-sī-dīn] *n* [gram-positive + -i- + -cide + -in] (1940): any of several toxic crystalline polypeptide antibiotics produced by a soil bacterium (*Bacillus brevis*) and used against gram-positive bacteria in local infections

gram-mi-n-e-ous *adj* [grā-mī-nē-əs] *adj* [L *gramineus*, fr. *gramin-*, *gramen* grass] (ca. 1658): of or relating to a grass

gram-i-niv-o-rous *adj* [grā-mō-nī-vō-rəs] *adj* [L *gramin-*, *gramen*] (1739): feeding on grass or the seeds of grass (~ locusts) (~ birds)

gram-mar *n* [grā-mar] *n* [ME *gramere*, fr. AF *gramaire*, modif. of L *grammatica*, fr. Gk *grammatikē*, fr. fem. of *grammatikos* of letters, fr. *gramma-*, *gramma* — more at *GRAM*] (14c) 1 a: the study of the classes of words, their inflections, and their functions and relations in the sentence b: a study of what is to be preferred and what avoided in inflection and syntax 2 a: the characteristic system of inflections and syntax of a language b: a system of rules that defines the grammatical structure of a language 3 a: a grammar textbook b: speech or writing evaluated according to its conformity to grammatical rules 4: the principles or rules of an art, science, or technique (a ~ of the theater); also: a set of such principles or rules — *gram-mar-i-an* *n*

grammar school *n* (14c) 1 a: a secondary school emphasizing Latin and Greek in preparation for college b: a British college preparatory school 2: a school intermediate between primary school and high school 3: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

gram-mat-i-cal *adj* [grā-ma-tī-kəl] *adj* (1530) 1: of or relating to grammar 2: conforming to the rules of grammar (a ~ sentence) — *gram-mat-i-cal-ly* *adv* [grā-ma-tī-kā-lē] *adv* — *gram-mat-i-cal-ness* *n* — *gram-mat-i-cal-ly* *adv*

grammatical meaning *n* (1769): the part of meaning that varies from one inflectional form to another (as from *plays* to *played* to *playing*) — compare *LEXICAL MEANING*

gramme *n* [grām] *n* [F *gramme*, fr. LL *gramma*, a small weight, fr. Gk *gramma*, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (1810) 1: a metric unit of mass equal to 1/1000 kilogram and nearly equal to the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at 4°C under the acceleration of gravity 2: the weight of a gram [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1934): GRANDMOTHER

gram-mole *n* [grām-mōl] *n* (ca. 1902): the mass of one mole of a compound equal in grams to the molecular weight — called also *gram-molecule*

Gram-my *n* [grā-mē] *service mark* — used for the annual presentation of a statuette for notable achievement in the recording industry

gram-neg-a-tive *adj* [grām-nē-gə-tīv] *adj* (1907): not holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

gram-o-phone *n* [grā-mō-fōn] *n* [fr. *Gramophone*, a trademark] (1887): PHONOGRAPH

gramps *n* [grāmp] *n* or *gramp* *n* [grāmp] *n*, pl *gramps* [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1900): GRANDFATHER 1a

gram-pos-i-tive *adj* [grām-pō-zī-tīv, -pō-zī-tīv] *adj* (1907): holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

gram-pus *n* [grām-pōs] *n* [alter. of ME *grasppe*, *grapay*, fr. AF *graspels*, fr. *gras* fat (fr. L *crassus*) + *pis* fish, fr. L *piscis* — more at *CRASS, FISH*] (ca. 1529) 1: a dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) of temperate and tropical seas; also: any of various small cetaceans 2: the giant whip scorpion (*Mastigoproctus giganteus*) of the southern U.S.

Gram's stain *n* [grām-zān] or *Gram stain* *n* [grām-zān] [Hans C. J. Gram †1938 Dan. physician] (1903) 1: a method for the differential staining of bacteria by treatment with a watery solution of iodine and the iodide of potassium after staining with a triphenylmethane dye (as crystal violet) — called also *Gram's method* 2: the chemicals used in Gram's stain

gram-vari-able *adj* [grām-ve-ri-ē-bəl] *adj* (1956): staining irregularly or inconsistently by Gram's stain

gran *n* [grān] *n* (1863): GRANDMOTHER 1

grana *n* [grān] *n* [F *grana*, fr. LL *granum*, a small weight, fr. Gk *gramma*, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (1810) 1: a metric unit of mass equal to 1/1000 kilogram and nearly equal to the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at 4°C under the acceleration of gravity 2: the weight of a gram [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1934): GRANDMOTHER

gran-a-dil-la *n* [grān-ə-dī-lā, -dē-(y)-ə] *n* [Sp, dim. of *granada* pomegranate, fr. LL *granata* — more at *GRENADINE*] (1613) 1: any of various usu. egg-shaped to football-shaped passion fruits (esp. of *Passiflora quadrangularis* and *P. edulis*) that have juicy aromatic pulp: a passion-flower that produces granadillas

grana-ry *n* [grā-nā-rē, -rē] *n*, pl *-ries* [L *granarium*, fr. *granum* grain] (1570) 1 a: a storehouse for threshed grain b: a region producing grain in abundance 2: a chief source or storehouse

grand *adj* [grānd] *adj* [AF *grant*, *grand*, large, great, fr. L *grandis*] (1548) 1 a: having higher rank than others bearing the same general designation (the ~ champion) 2 a: INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE (the ~ total of all money paid out) b: DEFINITIVE, INCONTROVERTIBLE (~ extent, or conception (~ design) 5 a: LAVISH, SUMPTUOUS (a ~ celebration) b: marked by a regal form and dignity c: fine or imposing in appearance or impression d: LOFTY, SUBLIME (writing in the ~ style) 6 a: pretending to social superiority: SUPERCLIOUS b: intended to impress (a person of ~ gestures) 7: very good: WONDERFUL (~ a ~ time) — *grand-ly* *adv* [grānd-lē] *adv* — *grand-ness* *n*

syn GRAND, MAGNIFICENT, IMPOSING, STATELY, MAJESTIC, GRANDIOSITY mean large and impressive. GRAND adds to greatness of size the implications of handsomeness and dignity (a *grand* staircase). MAGNIFICENT implies an impressive largeness proportionate to scale without sacrifice of dignity or good taste (*magnificent* paintings). IMPOSING implies great size and dignity but esp. stresses impressiveness (an imposing edifice). STATELY may suggest poised dignity, erectness of bearing, handsomeness of proportions, ceremonious deliberation of movement (the *stately* procession). MAJESTIC combines the implications of IMPOSING and STATELY and usu. adds a suggestion of solemn exceeding ordinary experience (*grandiose* hydroelectric projects) but is most commonly applied derogatorily to inflated pretension or absurd exaggeration (*grandiose* schemes).

grand *n* (1840) 1: GRAND PIANO 2 pl *grand slang*: a thousand dollars

la) about / kitten, F table / further / ash / ace / mop, mar
 la) out / chin / bet / easy / go / hit / ice / job
 la) sing / go / law / boy / thin / the / foot / foot
 la) yet / vision, beige / a, e, u, see Guide to Pronunciation

chaku [p dial. (Okinawa)] (1970) : a weapon that consists of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain

nun-cl-a-ture \nun(t)-sə-čhūr, 'nūn(t)-, -chər, -tyūr, -tūr\ n [It *nunciatura*, fr. *nuncio*] (1652) 1 : a papal diplomatic mission headed by a *nuncio* 2 : the office or period of office of a *nuncio*

nun-clo \nun(t)-sə-čh, 'nūn(t)-\ n, pl -cl-əs [It, fr. L *nuntius* messenger, message] (1528) : a papal legate of the highest rank permanently accredited to a civil government

nun-cle \nun-kəl\ n [by alter. (fr. misdivision of an uncle)] (ca. 1589) chiefly dial : UNCLE

nun-cu-pa-tive \nun-kyū-pā-tiv, 'nəp-, 'nən-kyū-pā-\ adj [ML *nuncupatus*, fr. LL, so-called, fr. L *nuncupatus*, pp. of *nuncupare* to name, prob. ultim. fr. *nomen* name + *capere* to take — more at NAME, HEAVE] (1546) : not written : ORAL (a ~ will)

nun-ery \nun-rē, 'nə-nə-\ n, pl -nēr-les (14c) : a convent of nuns

nuc \nū-čh, 'nū-čh-\ n [Vietnamese *nuc* *mām*, lit., salted fish sauce] (1919) : a sauce made of fish (as anchovies) fermented in brine

nuc-pa \nū-čh, 'nū-čh-\ n, pl *Nupe* or *Nupes* (1883) : a member of a people of west central Nigeria; also : the language of the Nupe people

nup-tial \nəp-shəl, -chəl, +shə-wəl, +chə-wəl\ adj [L *nuptialis*, fr. *nuptia*, pl, wedding, fr. *nubere* to marry; perh. akin to Gk *nymphē* bride, nymph] (15c) 1 : of or relating to marriage or the marriage ceremony 2 : characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season (~ flight)

nuptial n (ca. 1555) : MARRIAGE, WEDDING — usu. used in pl.

nup-tial-ty \nəp-shē-ā-lə-tē, -chē-\ n, pl -ties (1899) : the marriage rate

Nur-i-stani \nur-ə-'stā-nē, nyūr-\ n [Nuristan, Afghanistan] (1951) 1 : a member of a group of peoples of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan 2 : the family of languages spoken by the Nuristanis that constitutes a distinct branch of Indo-Iranian

nurse \nɜrs\ n [ME *norice*, *norice*, *nurse*, fr. AF *nurice*, fr. LL *nutricia*, fr. L, fem. of *nutricius* nourishing — more at NUTRITIOUS] (13c) 1 a : a woman who suckles an infant not her own : WET NURSE b : a woman who takes care of a young child : DRY NURSE 2 : one that looks after, fosters, or advises 3 : a person who cares for the sick or infirm; *specif.* : a licensed health-care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health — compare LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, REGISTERED NURSE 4 a : a worker form of a social insect (as an ant or a bee) that cares for the young b : a female mammal used to suckle the young of another

nurse v *nursed*; *nurs-ing* [ME *nurshen* to suckle, nourish, contr. of *nurshen*] v (14c) 1 a : to nourish at the breast : SUCKLE b : to take nourishment from the breast of 2 : REAR, EDUCATE 3 a : to promote the development or progress of b : to manage with care or economy (*nursed* the business through hard times) (*nursed* a 1-0 lead) c : to take charge of and watch over 4 a : to care for and wait on (as a sick person) b : to attempt to cure by care and treatment 5 : to hold in one's memory or consideration (~ a grievance) 6 a : to use, handle, or operate carefully so as to conserve energy or avoid injury or pain (~ a sprained ankle) b : to use sparingly c : to consume slowly or over a long period (~ a cup of coffee) ~ vi 1 a : to feed an offspring from the breast b : to feed at the breast : SUCK 2 : to act or serve as a nurse — *nurs-er* n

nurse-maid \nɜrs-'mā-d\ n (1657) : a girl or woman who is regularly employed to look after children

nurse-mid-wife \nɜrs-'mīd-'wīf\ n (1952) : a registered nurse with additional training as a midwife who delivers infants and provides prenatal and postpartum care, newborn care, and some routine care (as gynecological exams) of women — *nurse-mid-wife-ry* \nɜrs-'mīd-'wīf-(ə-)rē, -wīf-'mīd-'wīf-\ n

nurse-prac-ti-tion-er \prāk-'ti-sh(ə)-nɜr\ n (1969) : a registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician

nurs-ery \nɜrs-rē, 'nɜr-sə-\ n, pl -rē-les (14c) 1 obs : attentive care 2 : a child's bedroom b : a place where children are temporarily cared for in their parents' absence c : DAY NURSERY 3 a : something that fosters, develops, or promotes b : a place in which persons are trained or educated 4 : an area where plants are grown for transplanting, for use as stocks for budding and grafting, or for sale 5 : a place where young animals grow or are cared for

nurs-ery-man \nɜrs-'mən\ n (1672) : one whose occupation is the cultivation of plants (as trees and shrubs) esp. for sale

nursery rhyme n (1816) : a short rhyme for children that often tells a story

nursery school n (1835) : a school for children usu. under five years

nurse's aide n (1943) : a worker who assists trained nurses in a hospital by performing unspecialized services (as giving baths)

nurse shark n [alter. of *nusse*] (1851) : any of various sharks (as family *Ginglymostomatidae*); esp : a shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) of warm waters

nursing n (1860) 1 : the profession of a nurse (schools of ~) 2 : the duties of a nurse (proper ~ is difficult work)

nursing home n (1896) : a privately operated establishment providing maintenance and personal or nursing care for persons (as the aged or the chronically ill) who are unable to care for themselves properly

nurs-ling \nɜrs-līŋ\ n (1557) 1 : one that is solicitously cared for 2 : a nursing child

nur-tur-ance \nur-čhər-ən(t)s\ n (ca. 1938) : affectionate care and attention — *nur-tur-ant* \-rənt\ adj

nur-ture \nur-čhər\ n [ME *nurture*, *nurture*, fr. AF *nurture*, fr. LL *nurtura* act of nursing, fr. L *nutritus*, pp. of *nutrire* to suckle, nourish — more at NOURISH] (14c) 1 : TRAINING, UPRISING 2 : something that nourishes : FOOD 3 : the sum of the environmental factors influencing the behavior and traits expressed by an organism

nurture v *nur-tured*; *nur-tur-ing* \nur-čhər-\ n (15c) 1 : to supply with nourishment 2 : EDUCATE 3 : to further the development of : FOSTER — *nur-tur-er* \nur-čhər-\ n

nut \nut\ n [ME *nute*, *note*, fr. OE *hnūt*; akin to OHG *nuz* nut and perh. to L *nux* nut] (bef. 12c) 1 a (1) : a hard-shelled dry fruit or seed with a separable rind or shell and interior kernel (2) : the kernel of a nut b : a dry indehiscent one-seeded fruit with a woody pericarp 2 a : a hard problem or undertaking b : CORE, HEART 3 : a perforated

block usu. of metal that has an internal screw thread and is used on a bolt or screw for tightening or holding something 4 : the ridge in a stringed instrument (as a violin) over which the strings pass on the upper end of the fingerboard 5 : a small jump (as of butter) 6 a : a foolish, eccentric, or crazy person b : ENTHUSIAST (a movie ~) 7 pl : NONSENSE — often used interjectionally 8 slang : a person's head 9 usu. vulgar : TESTIS 10 : the amount of money that must be earned in order to break even 11 : EX 1 — nut-like \-līk\ adj

nut v *nut-ted*; *nut-ting* (1604) : to gather or seek nuts

nu-tate \nū-'tāt, 'nyū-\ v *nu-tat-ed*; *nu-tat-ing* (1880) : to exhibit or undergo nutation

nu-ta-tion \nū-'tā-shən, nyū-\ n [L *nutatio*-, *nutatio*, fr. *nutare* to nod, rock — more at NUMEN] (1612) 1 archaic : the act of nodding the head 2 : oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (as the earth) : WOBBLE 3 : a spontaneous usu. spiral movement of a growing plant part — *nu-ta-tion-al* \-shənəl, -shə-nəl\ adj

nut-brown \nut-'braun\ adj (14c) : of the color of a brown nut

nut-case \-kās\ n (1959) : NUT 6a

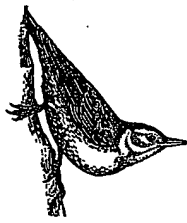
nut-crack-er \-krə-'kər\ n (ca. 1548) : an implement for cracking nuts

nut-gall \-gəl\ n (15c) : a gall that resembles a nut; esp : such a gall produced on oaks

nut grass n (1775) : a perennial sedge (*Cyperus rotundus*) of wide distribution that has slender rootstocks bearing small edible tubers resembling nuts; also : a related sedge (*C. esculentus*)

nut-hatch \nut-'hach\ n [ME *notehache*, fr. *note* nut + *hache*; akin to OE *to haccian* to hack — more at HACK] (14c) : any of various small tree-climbing chiefly insectivorous birds (family Sittidae and esp. genus *Sitta*) that have a compact body, a narrow bill, a short tail, and sometimes a black cap

nut-house \nut-'haūs\ n (1900) slang : a mental hospital



nut-hatch

nut-let \nut-'lət\ n (1856) 1 a : a small nut b : a small fruit similar to a nut 2 : the stone of a drupelet

nut-meg \nut-'meg, -māg\ n [ME *notemigge*, *notemuge*, ultim. fr. Old Occitan *noz muscada*, fr. *noz* nut (fr. L *nuc-*, *nux*) + *muscada*, fem. of *muscat* musky — more at MUSCAT] (15c) 1 : an aromatic seed produced by an evergreen tree (*Myristica fragrans* of the family Myristicaceae, the nutmeg family) native to the Moluccas; also : the ground seed used as a spice — compare MACE 2 2 : a tree yielding nutmeg

nut-pick \nut-'pīk\ n (1862) : a small sharp-pointed implement for extracting the kernels from nuts

nu-tra-ceu-ti-cal also **nu-tri-ceu-ti-cal** \nū-'trə-'sū-ti-kəl\ n [nutritive + pharmaceutical] (1990) : a foodstuff (as a fortified food or dietary supplement) that provides health benefits in addition to its basic nutritional value

nu-tria \nū-'trē-ə, 'nyū-\ n [AmerSp, fr. Sp, otter, modif. of L *lutra*; prob. akin to OE *oter* otter] (1820) 1 : the durable usu. light brown fur of a nutria 2 : a large So. American semiaquatic rodent (*Myocastor coypus*) with webbed hind feet and a round nearly hairless tail that has been introduced into parts of Europe, Asia, and No. America

nu-tri-ent \nū-'trē-ənt, 'nyū-\ adj [L *nutrient*, *nutrient*, prp. of *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1650) : furnishing nourishment

nutrient n (ca. 1828) : a nutritive substance or ingredient

nu-tri-ment \nū-'trē-mənt, 'nyū-\ n [ME, fr. L *nutrimentum*, fr. *nutrire*] (15c) : something that nourishes or promotes growth, provides energy, repairs body tissues, and maintains life

nu-tri-tion \nū-'tri-shən, nyū-\ n [ME *nutricion*, fr. LL *nutritio*-, *nutritio*, fr. L *nutrire*] (15c) 1 : the act or process of nourishing or being nourished; *specif.* : the sum of the processes by which an animal or plant takes in and utilizes food substances 2 : NOURISHMENT 1 — *nu-tri-tion-al* \-trī-shənəl, -trī-shə-nəl\ adj — *nu-tri-tion-al-ly* adv

nu-tri-tion-ist \-trī-sh(ə)-nīst\ n (1926) : a specialist in the study of nutrition

nu-tri-tious \nū-'tri-shəs, nyū-\ adj [L *nutriticus*, fr. *nutric-*, *nutrix* nurse, fr. *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1665) : NOURISHING — *nu-tri-tious-ly* adv — *nu-tri-tious-ness* n

nu-tri-tive \nū-'trē-tiv, 'nyū-\ adj (14c) 1 : of or relating to nutrition 2 : NOURISHING — *nu-tri-tive-ly* adv

nutritive ratio n (1897) : the ratio of digestible protein to other nutrients in a foodstuff or ration

nuts \nuts\ adj (1785) 1 : ENTHUSIASTIC, KEEN (~ for animals and children — Rick Reilly) 2 : INSANE, CRAZY (said that it was a novel and all the people who said otherwise were ~ — Flannery O'Connor)

nuts and bolts n (1967) 1 : the working parts or elements 2 : the practical workings of a machine or enterprise as opposed to theoretical considerations or speculative possibilities — *nute-and-bolts* adj

nut-sedge \nut-'sedj\ n (ca. 1909) : NUT GRASS

nut-shell \nut-'shel\ n (13c) 1 : the hard external covering in which the kernel of a nut is enclosed 2 : something of small size, amount, or scope — *In a nutshell* : in a very brief statement

nut-ter \nə-'tər\ n (1958) slang Brit : NUT 6a

nut-ty \nə-'tē\ adj *nut-ty-er*; *-est* (15c) 1 : having or producing nuts 2 : having a flavor like that of nuts 3 : ECCENTRIC, SILLY; also : mentally unbalanced — *nut-ty-ly* \-tē-lē\ adv — *nut-ty-ness* n

Nuu-Chah-Nulth also **Nuu Chah Nulth** \nu-'chā-nul\ n, pl *Nuu-Chah-Nulth* also *Nuu Chah Nulth* [Nootka *nuč̓aɬ*, lit., all along the mountains] (1979) : NOOTKA

nux vom-i-ca \nʊks-'vī-mī-kə\ n, pl *nux vomica* [NL, lit., emetic nut] (14c) 1 : the poisonous disk-shaped seed of a tree (*Strychnos nuxvomica* of the family Loganiaceae) of southern Asia that contains several alkaloids and esp. strychnine and brucine; also : the tree yielding nux vomica 2 : a drug containing nux vomica

\ə\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \əd\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \ə\ go \ə\ hit \ə\ ice \ə\ job \ə\ sing \ə\ go \ə\ law \ə\ boy \ə\ thin \ə\ the \ə\ loot \ə\ foot \ə\ yet \ə\ vision, beige \k, ɔ, ce, ve, ʌ\ see Guide to Pronunciation

ve-da-lia \vɪˈdāl-yə/ *n* [NL, genus name] (1889): an Australian ladybug (*Rodolia cardinalis*) introduced to many countries to control scale insects — called also *vedalia beetle*

Ve-dan-ta \vəˈdān-tə, və-, ˈdān-/ *n* [Skt *Vedānta*, lit. end of the Veda, fr. *Veda* + *anta* end; akin to OE *ende* end] (1788): an orthodox system of Hindu philosophy developing esp. in a qualified monism the speculations of the Upanishads on ultimate reality and the liberation of the soul — **Ve-dan-tism** \ˈdān-ti-zəm, ˈdān-/ *n* — **Ve-dan-tist** \ˈdān-tist, ˈdān-/ *n*

Ve-dan-tic \ˈdān-tik, ˈdān-/ *adj* (1882): 1: of or relating to the Vedanta philosophy 2: **VEDIC**

Ved-da or **Ved-dah** \ˈve-də/ *n* [Sinhalese *vedda* hunter] (1681): a member of an aboriginal people of Sri Lanka

Ved-doid \ˈve-dɔɪd/ *n* (1928): a member of a race of southern Asia traditionally classified by such physical features as wavy to curly hair, chocolate-brown skin color, and slender body build — **Veddoid** *adj*
ve-dette or **vi-dette** \viˈdet-/ *n* [F, fr. It *vedetta*, alter. of *veletta*, prob. fr. Sp *vela* watch, fr. *velar* to keep watch, fr. L *vigilare* to wake, watch, fr. *vigil* awake — more at **VIGIL**] (ca. 1611): a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets

Ve-dic \ˈvi-dik/ *adj* (1848): of or relating to the Vedas, the language in which they are written, or Hindu history and culture between 500 B.C. and 500 B.C.

vee \ˈve-/ *n* (ca. 1883): 1: something shaped like the letter V 2: the letter V

vee-jay \ˈve-jā/ *n* [video jockey] (ca. 1981): an announcer of a program (as on television) that features music videos

veena *n* of **VINA**

veep \ˈvep/ *n* [fr. v. p. (abbr. for *vice president*)] (1949): **VICE PRESIDENT**

veer \ˈvir-/ *v* [ME *veren*, of LG or D origin; akin to MD *veren* to slacken, MLG *veren*] (15c): to let out (as a rope)

veer *v* [ME *veren*, fr. MF *vire*, fr. OF, to throw with a twisting motion, fr. VL *vibrare*, alter. of L *vibrare* to wave, propel suddenly — more at **VIBRATE**] (15c): 1: to change direction or course (the economy ~ed sharply downward) 2: of the wind: to shift in a clockwise direction — compare **BACK** 3: to wear ship ~ *v*: to direct to a different course; *specif*: **WEAR** 7 *syn* see **SWERVE** — **veering-ly** \ˈvɪr-ɪŋ-/ *adv*

veer *n* (ca. 1611): a change in course or direction (a ~ to the right)

vee-ry \ˈvir-ē-/ *n*, pl *veeries* [prob. imit.] (1838): an American thrush (*Catharus fuscescens*) common in the eastern U.S.

veg \ˈve-/ *n*, pl *veg* (1918) *chiefly Brit*: **VEGETABLE**

Ve-ga \ˈve-gə, ˈvə-/ *n* [NL, fr. Ar (*al-Nasr*) *al-Wāq*], lit. the falling (vulture)] (ca. 1638): the brightest star in the constellation Lyra

veg-an \ˈve-gən/ *also* \ˈvə-/ *also* \ˈve-jən/ or \ˈjan-/ *n* [by contr. fr. *vegetarian*] (1944): a strict vegetarian who consumes no animal food or dairy products; *also*: one who abstains from using animal products (as leather) — **vegan** *adj* — **veg-an-ism** \ˈve-gən-izəm, ˈvə-gə-, ˈve-jə-/ *n*

veg-e-ta-ble \ˈve-jə-bəl, ˈve-jə-/ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *vegetabilis* vegetative, fr. *vegetare* to grow, fr. L, to animate, fr. *vegetus* lively, fr. *vegere* to enliven — more at **WAKE**] (15c): 1: of, relating to, constituting, or growing like plants 2: consisting of plants: **VEGETATIONAL** 2: made from, obtained from, or containing plants or plant products (~ soup) (~ fat) 3: resembling or suggesting a plant (as in inertness or passivity)

vegetable *n* (15c): 1: **PLANT** 1b 2: a usu. herbaceous plant (as the cabbage, bean, or potato) grown for an edible part that is usu. eaten as part of a meal; *also*: such an edible part 3: a person whose mental and physical functioning is severely impaired and esp. one who requires supportive measures (as mechanical ventilation) to survive

vegetable ivory *n* (1842): the hard white opaque endosperm of the ivory nut that takes a high polish and is used as a substitute for ivory 2: **IVORY NUT**

vegetable marrow *n* (ca. 1816) *chiefly Brit*: any of various smooth-skinned elongated summer squashes with creamy-white to deep green skins

vegetable oil *n* (1765): an oil of plant origin; *esp*: a fatty oil from seeds or fruits

vegetable oyster *n* (ca. 1818): **SALISFY**

vegetable paster *n* (1887): **CHAYOTE**

vegetable wax *n* (1815): a wax of plant origin secreted commonly in thin flakes by the walls of epidermal cells

veg-e-ta-bly \ˈve-jə-bəl, ˈve-jə-/ *adv* or *adj* (1651): in the manner of or like a vegetable

veg-e-tal \ˈve-jə-təl/ *adj* [ML *vegetare* to grow] (15c): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2: **VEGETATIVE** 3: of or relating to the vegetal pole of an egg or to that part of an egg from which the endoderm normally develops (~ blastomeres)

vegetal pole *n* (1896): the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the animal pole and usu. marks the center of the protoplasm containing more yolk — see **BLASTULA** illustration

veg-e-tar-i-an \ˈve-jə-tər-ē-ən/ *n* [*vegetable* + *-arian*] (1839): 1: one who believes in or practices vegetarianism 2: **HERBIVORE**

vegetarian *adj* (1849): 1: of or relating to vegetarians 2: consisting wholly of vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, and sometimes eggs or dairy products (a ~ diet)

veg-e-tar-i-an-ism \ˈve-jə-tər-ē-izəm/ *n* (ca. 1851): the theory or practice of living on a vegetarian diet

veg-e-tate \ˈve-jə-tāt, vɒˈtāt-/ *v* [*vegetatus*, pp. of *vegetare* to grow] (1605): 1: to grow in the manner of a plant; *also*: to grow exuberantly or with proliferation of fleshy or warty outgrowths 2: to produce vegetation 3: to lead a passive existence without exertion of body or mind ~ *v*: to establish vegetation in or on

veg-e-ta-tion \ˈve-jə-tā-shən/ *n* (1564): 1: the act or process of vegetating 2: inert existence 3: plant life or total plant cover (as of an area) 4: an abnormal growth upon a body part (fibria ~s on the mitral valve) — **veg-e-ta-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nəl/ *adj*

veg-e-ta-tive \ˈve-jə-tā-tiv/ *adj* (14c): 1: (1) growing or having the power of growing (2): of, relating to, or engaged in nutritive and growth functions as contrasted with reproductive functions (a ~ nucleus) 2: promoting plant growth (the ~ properties of soil) 3: of, relating to, or involving propagation by nonsexual processes or methods 2: relating to, composed of, or suggesting vegetation. 3: of or

relating to the division of nature comprising the plant kingdom 4: **AUTONOMIC** 1 b: characterized by, resulting from, or being a state of severe mental impairment in which only involuntary bodily functions are sustained 5: **VEGETABLE** 3 — **veg-e-ta-tive-ly** *adv* — **veg-e-ta-tive-ness** *n*

ve-gete \ˈvə-jet/ *adj* [L *vegetus* — more at **VEGETABLE**] (1639) *archaic*: **LIVELY, HEALTHY**

veg-gle *also* **veg-le** \ˈve-jəl/ *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1955): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2: *slang*: **VEGETARIAN**

veggie burger *n* (1972): a patty chiefly of vegetable-derived protein used as a meat substitute; *also*: a sandwich containing such a patty

veg out \ˈvej-/ *v* **vegged out**; **veg-ging out** [short for *vegetate*] (1980): to spend time idly or passively

ve-he-mence \ˈvə-mən(t)s/ *n* (15c): the quality or state of being vehement: **INTENSITY**

ve-he-ment \ˈvə-mənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *vehement*, *vehemens*, *vehemens*] (15c): marked by forceful energy: **POWERFUL** (a ~ wind): as a: intensely emotional: **IMPASSIONED, FERVID** (~ patriotism) b (1): deeply felt (a ~ suspicion) (2): forcibly expressed (~ denunciations) c: bitterly antagonistic (a ~ debate) — **ve-he-ment-ly** *adv*

ve-hi-cle \ˈvə-ki-/ *also* \ˈvə-hi-kəl/ *n* [F *véhicule*, fr. L *vehiculum* carriage, conveyance, fr. *vehere* to carry — more at **WAY**] (1612): 1: an inert medium (as a syrup) in which a medicinally active agent is administered 2: any of various media acting usu. as solvents, carriers, or binders for active ingredients or pigments 3: an agent of transmission: **CARRIER** 4: a medium through which something is expressed, achieved, or displayed (an investment ~); *esp*: a work created esp. to display the talents of a particular performer 4: a means of carrying or transporting something (planes, trains, and other ~s): as a: **MOTOR VEHICLE** b: a piece of mechanized equipment

ve-hi-cu-lar \ˈvə-hi-kyə-lər/ *adj* (1616): 1: of, relating to, or designed for vehicles and esp. motor vehicles 2: transported by vehicle c: caused by or resulting from the operation of a vehicle (~ homicide) 2: serving as a vehicle

V-8 \ˈvɛ-ət/ *n* (1930): an internal combustion engine having two banks of four cylinders each with the banks at an angle to each other; *also*: an automobile having such an engine

veil \vā-/ *n* [ME, fr. AF *veil*, *veille*, fr. L *vēla*, pl. of *velum* sail, awning, curtain] (13c): 1: a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often esp. in Eastern countries for the face; *specif*: the outer covering of a nun's headress 2: a length of veiling or netting worn over the head or face or attached for protection or ornament to a hat or headress (a bridal ~) 3: any of various liturgical cloths; *esp*: a cloth used to cover the chalice 2: the life of a nun — often used in the phrase *take the veil* 3: a concealing curtain or cover of cloth 4: something that resembles a veil (a ~ of stars); *esp*: something that hides or obscures like a veil (lift the ~ of secrecy) 5: a covering body part or membrane: as a: **VELUM** b: **CAUL**

veil *v* (14c): to cover, provide, obscure, or conceal with or as if with a veil ~ *v*: to put on or wear a veil

veiled \ˈvāld/ *adj* (14c): 1: a: having or wearing a veil or a concealing cover (a ~ hat) b: characterized by a softening tonal distortion 2: obscured as if by a veil: **DISGUISED** (~ threats)

veil-ing \ˈvā-lɪŋ/ *n* (13c): 1: any of various light sheer fabrics 2: **VEIL**

vein \vān/ *n* [ME *veine*, fr. AF, fr. L *vena*] (14c): 1: a narrow water channel in rock or earth or in ice 2 (1): **LODE** 2 (2): a bed of useful mineral matter c: **LODE** 3 2: **BLOOD VESSEL**; *esp*: any of the tubular branching vessels that carry blood from the capillaries toward the heart 3: a: any of the vascular bundles forming the framework of a leaf b: any of the thickened cuticular ribs that serve to stiffen the wings of an insect 4: something suggesting veins (as in reticulation); *specif*: a wavy variegation (as in marble) 5: a distinctive mode of expression: **STYLE** (stories in a romantic ~) 6: a distinctive element or quality: **STRAIN** (introduced a welcome ~ of humor) c: a line of thought or action (renewed discussion along the same ~) 6: a special aptitude (inherited an artistic ~) b: a usu. transitory and casually attained mood c: top form (thou troublest me; I am not in the ~ — Shak.) — **vein-al** \ˈvā-nəl/ *adj*

veined \ˈvānd/ *adj* (ca. 1529): patterned with or as if with veins: having venation: **STREAKED** (a ~ leaf) (~ marble) (~ cheese)

vein-er \ˈvā-nər/ *n* (1895): a small V gouge used in wood carving

vein-ing \ˈvā-nɪŋ/ *n* (1826): a pattern of veins: **VENATION**

vein-let \ˈvān-lət/ *n* (1831): a small vein

veiny \ˈvā-nē/ *adj* (1611): full of veins: noticeably veined (~ hands)

vel *abbr* velocity

ve-la-men \ˈvə-lā-mən/ *n*, pl *ve-lam-i-na* \ˈlā-mə-nə/ [NL, fr. L, covering, fr. *velare* to cover, fr. *velum* curtain] (1882): the thick corky epidermis of aerial roots of an epiphytic orchid that absorbs water from the atmosphere

ve-lar \ˈvə-lər/ *adj* [NL *velaris*, fr. *velum*] (1876): 1: formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate (the ~ *vel* of *vel* cool) 2: of, forming, or relating to a velum and esp. the soft palate — **velar** *n*

ve-lar-i-um \ˈvə-lər-ē-əm/ *n*, pl *ve-lar-i-a* \ˈlār-ē-ə/ [L, fr. *velum* curtain] (1834): an awning over an ancient Roman theater or amphitheater

ve-lar-i-za-tion \ˈvə-lər-ē-zā-shən/ *n* (1915): 1: the quality or state of being velarized 2: an act or instance of velarizing

ve-lar-ize \ˈvə-lər-ēz/ *v* [*velar* + *-ize*] (1915): to modify (as the *V* of *pull* pool) by a simultaneous velar articulation

Vel-cro \ˈvel-(j)krō/ *trademark* — used for a closure consisting of a piece of fabric of small hooks that sticks to a corresponding fabric of small loops

veld or **veldt** \ˈvelt, ˈfelt/ *n* [Afrik *veld*, fr. D, field; akin to OB *feld* field] (1835): a grassland esp. of southern Africa usu. with scattered shrubs or trees

ve-li-gor \ˈvə-lə-jər, ˈvə-/ *n* [NL, fr. *velum* + *-ger* bearing, fr. *gerere* to bear] (1877): a larval mollusk in the stage when it has developed the velum

vel-lel-ty \ˈvə-lē-ə-tē, və-/ *n*, pl *-ties* [NL *velletas*, fr. L *velle* to wish, will — more at **WILL**] (1618): 1: the lowest degree of volition 2: a slight wish or tendency: **INCLINATION**

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